country produced 149.89 MMT of refined petroleum products, with the private sector refineries contributing 40.92 MMT. Therefore, the surplus products have necessarily to be exported.

Scarcity of water

†*308. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of scarcity of water in the country;

(b) if so, whether any initiative is being taken by Government for the distribution of water of Chenab, Kosi and Brahmaputra rivers under the international law; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) the UNESCO Water Portal states that water scarcity has been defined as a situation where water availability in a country or a region is below 1000 cubic metre per person per year. Considering the population of 2001 census, the per capita water availability in India works out to be 1820 Cubic Metre. The per capita water availability is declining because of population growth. The National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development has estimated that by the year 2050, when the population is expected to stabilize, the per capita water availability would be 1140 Cubic Metre. However, the per capita water availability varies considerably from one basin to another.

(b) and (c) Distribution of Chenab waters is governed by the provisions of Indus Waters Treaty 1960 between India and Pakistan. Under the Treaty, India is under obligation to let flow all the Chenab waters and not permit any interference with these waters, except for uses, as specified in the Treaty. A bilateral agreement on Kosi Barrage was signed between the Governments of India and Nepal in 1954, which was later revised in December 1966. There is no bilateral agreement with China for distribution of waters of Brahmaputra river. However, a Joint Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) has been set up under cooperation with China for cooperation for the supply of flood season hydrological data by China on river Brahmaputra.

Job loss due to economic crisis

*309. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a likelihood that lakhs of employees may have to lose their jobs in the near future in view of the global economic crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Unlike the developed countries where job losses have been reported due to the global financial crisis, the impact has been limited in India as a large proportion of population is employed in the agriculture sector which has not been affected by the crisis.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Besides, the services sector with a large share in GDP has also been less affected. Even in the export sector which registered negative growth in October, 2008, the fall was mainly due to a spike in export growth in October, 2007 and is limited to some sectors only. While no comprehensive surveys have been conducted to estimate the likely job losses in India due to global economic crisis, a sample study of 121 export related companies (for the period August-October, 2008) by Department of Commerce has indicated fall in jobs due to slowdown in some export sectors. A recent FICCI survey indicates some downsizing in employment in coming months particularly in some export sectors. Meanwhile, GDP growth is expected to moderate somewhat from very high growth rate in the last 3 years, yet remain sufficiently high this year generating new employment opportunities.

(c) Government is concerned about the possible impact of global financial crisis on the Indian economy, including employment, and several measures, financial and fiscal, have been taken. RBI's measures to enhance liquidity in the market and the Government's fiscal stimulus to help industrial growth and empolyment like reduction in three major ad valorem rates of Central Excise duty applicable to non-petroleum products by 4 percentage points, withdrawai of export duty on iron ore (fines) and additional plan expenditure of upto Rs 20,000 crore in the current year would help address the problem. Further. 3.24 crore households have been provided employment under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as on 15.12.2008 in the current financial year.

Annual growth rate

†*310. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the mid term annual report of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the annual growth rate in the current year is expected to be 7.5 per cent to 8 per cent and according to the Central Bank, the price index is expected to rise upto 7 per cent in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on the basis of the above figures, the growth rate in the country can be said to be satisfactory to the common man; and

(d) if not, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised their GDP forecast for 2008-09 to a range of 7.5-8.0 per cent. The growth has been revised downwards in view of the fact that the global down turn may be deeper and more protracted than expected earlier, with consequent adverse implication through trade and financial channels for emerging economies, including India, getting amplified. This could have effects in the form of potential terms of Trade losses, erosion of export competitiveness and restricted external financing causing the growth in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.